

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, and 15 and add Claims 16 and 17 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing image data, ~~and playlist data~~  
~~indicating a playback procedure of the image data~~, the apparatus comprising:  
specifying means for specifying a playback procedure of the image data;  
detecting means for detecting date information regarding the image data specified in the  
playback procedure specified by said specifying means;  
~~playlist processing means for generating playlist data based on a specified playback~~  
~~procedure for image data~~ indicating the playback procedure specified by said specifying means,  
and for generating date information of the playlist data based on the date information ~~regarding~~  
~~the image data specified in the playlist data~~ detected by said detecting means; and  
recording means for recording the playlist data and the date information of the playlist  
data in association with each other on a recording medium.
2. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the recording means generates  
a playlist file including the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data, and records  
the playlist file on the recording medium.
3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the date  
information of the playlist ~~indicates~~ further comprises a generation date of the playlist data.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data that is to be played back first among the image data specified in the playlist data.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data that is to be played back last among the image data specified in the playlist data.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data having date information indicating an oldest date among the image data specified in the playlist data.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data having date information indicating a latest date among the image data specified in the playlist data.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means further generates thumbnail image data of the playlist data based on the image data specified in the playlist data, and the recording means further records the thumbnail image data of the playlist data in association with the playlist data on the recording medium.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data selected from the image data specified in the playlist data, and generates thumbnail image data of the playlist data based on the image data selected.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means further generates recording-position information of the playlist data based on position information indicating a recording position regarding the image data specified in the playlist data, and the recording means further records the recording-position information of the playlist data in association with the playlist data on the recording medium.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data selected from the image data specified in the playlist data, and generates recording-position information of the playlist data based on position information of the image data selected.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the image data specified in the playlist data is recorded on the recording medium.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 12, further comprising display control means for displaying information regarding the image data and information regarding the playlist data recorded on the recording medium, in an order based on the date information.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a recording medium that allows random access.

15. (Currently Amended) A signal processing method for processing image data, ~~and~~ ~~playlist data indicating a playback procedure of the image data,~~ the method comprising the steps of:

specifying a playback procedure of the image data;

detecting date information regarding the image data specified in the playback procedure  
specified by said specifying step;

generating playlist data based on a specified playback procedure indicating the playback  
procedure specified by said specifying step, and generating date information of the playlist data  
based on the date information regarding image data specified in the playlist data detected by said  
detecting step; and

recording the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data in association with each other on a recording medium.

16. (New) An apparatus for processing image data and playlist data indicating a playback procedure of the image data, the apparatus comprising:

detecting means for detecting date information regarding the image data specified in the playback procedure indicated by the playlist data;

playlist processing means for generating date information of the playlist data based on the date information detected by said detecting means; and

recording means for recording the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data in association with each other on a recording medium.

17. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 16, further comprising display control means for sorting the image data and the playlist data on the basis of the date information of the image data and the date information of the playlist data and for displaying information regarding the image data and the playlist in the sorted order.